

The Status of Women in Carter County



STATUS OF WOMEN IN CARTER COUNTY: AN OVERVIEW

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INDICATOR	DATA	COUNTY RANKING
		(of 95 Counties)
COMPOSITE EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS INDEX	44.80	36
Women's Annual Earnings	\$19,687	77
Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings (Wage Gap)	74.6%	28
Women's Labor Force Participation Rate	42.4%	41
Female Unemployment Rate	5.5%	35
Women in Managerial or Professional Occupations	27.4%	43
COMPOSITE ECONOMIC AUTONOMY INDEX	59.75	76
Businesses that are Women-Owned (% of total)	15.7%	77
Women with a Four-Year College Degree (%)	8.8%	69
Women With a High School Diploma (%)	69.6%	48
Female High School Dropout Rate	5.9%	37
Women with any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage (%)	89.4%	72
Women Earning Incomes Below the Poverty Level (%)	18.1%	74
Single Female-Headed Households Living In Poverty (%)	11.7%	78
Adolescent Pregnancy Rate (Ages 10-19)	28.3	23

Report Overview: This publication on the Status of Women in Carter County is part of a statewide publication of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, *The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties, 2004*. The Economic Council on Women is a State agency created under TCA § 4-50-100, et seq. by the One Hundredth General Assembly in 1998 to address the economic needs of Tennessee women.

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

CARTER

Women have taken remarkable strides towards economic equality, from education to earnings to political participation. Women are now pursuing goals such as business ownership, leadership roles in their careers, and election to state and federal political office. However, obstacles still exist in the climb toward equality. Nationwide, equal numbers of men and women are obtaining four-year college degrees; however, these gains have not translated into pay equity. The average college-educated woman working full time earns \$44,200 a year compared to \$61,800 for men in the same category. Women are still under-represented in many of the highest paying, fastest growing sectors of the economy. Helping women break into these traditionally male-dominated areas like computer science, engineering, mathematics and technology, as well as all skilled-labor positions, gives women tools for self-sufficiency and understanding of their personal capabilities, and these advances are good for the economy of our counties and of our state.

Employment and Earnings

The employment and earnings index includes data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation, female unemployment, and percentages of women in professional or managerial occupations.

- ◇ Women in Carter County earn around \$7,000 less annually than their male counterparts. The median earnings for a women in the county are 74.6% of the earnings of a man. Median earnings for a women are \$19,687, ranking Carter 77th among the 95 counties.
- ◇ The current female unemployment rate in Carter County is 5.5% which is slightly lower than the overall Carter County unemployment rate of 5.9%.
- ◇ Women constitute 45.3% of the county's labor force and just 42.4% of women participate in the labor force.
- ◇ Among all working individuals, 23.9% have jobs in managerial or professional fields, but when only female workers are considered, that number increases slightly to 27.4%.

Economic Autonomy

The economic autonomy index includes information on educational attainment, business ownership and general quality of life issues.

- ◇ There are over 7,000 women in Carter County who did not graduate from high school. While 69.1% of all Carter County residents have a high school degree, 69.6% of women have such a degree.
- ◇ 8.8% of women in the county have a four-year college degree or better which is lower than the percentage of men and women in the county who have a four-year degree or better which is 12.8%. While about the same percentage of men and women have a high school diploma, higher percentages of men have a bachelor's degree.
- ◇ Though 51.4% of Carter County's population are women and though women account for 52.1% of the county's eligible voters, only three out of the thirty-two elected county officials are women.
- ◇ Despite making up nearly 16 percent of privately-owned businesses in Carter County, women-owned businesses only account for 5.0% of the total sales and receipts of private firms in the county.
- ◇ Over 18 percent of working women in Carter County earn wages below the poverty level.
- ◇ 12.8% of all families in the county are in poverty; however 31.8% of female-householder families with no husband present are living below the poverty line.

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CARTER

		Carter County	Rank of Carter County	Highest Ranking County
Earnings	Median Annual Earnings for FT Females	\$19,687	77	Williamson: \$32,243
	Wage Gap	74.6%	28	Davidson: 82.1%

Employment	Female Labor Force Participation Rate	42.4%	41	Rutherford: 50.9%
	Female Unemployment Rate	5.5%	35	Pickett: 1.5%
	Percent of Employed Females in Management, Prof., and Related Occupations	27.4%	43	Anderson: 44.6%
	Women Owned Business % of Total	15.7%	77	Moore: 63.3%

Education	% of Females with 4 Year Degree or Better	8.8%	69	Williamson: 39.5%
	% of Females with High School Diploma (or equivalency)	69.6%	48	Williamson: 90.6%
	Female Dropout Rate	5.9%	37	Pickett: 0.0%

Lifestyles	% of Women with any kind of Health Insurance Coverage	89.4%	72	Williamson: 100%
	% of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	18.1%	74	Williamson: 5.4%
	% of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	11.7%	78	Williamson: 2.5%
	Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	28.3	23	Williamson: 1.2%

ABOUT THE COUNCIL AND THIS REPORT

Carter County

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percentage of women in managerial occupations.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of households headed by a single female, single female headed households living in poverty, percentage of women with health insurance, the high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

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Visit the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at www.tennesseewomen.org

SOURCES	
Earnings and Employment	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Earnings)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Employed Females in Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Economic Autonomy	
Women-owned Business, Percent of total	Economic Census, 1997
Percent of Females w/4yr Degree or Better	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Females with a High School Diploma (or equivalency)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Dropout Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Women with Any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Percent of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Voter Demographics and Elected County Officials	National Association of Counties